



# Working Together

*Preserving northeast Florida's natural beauty and cultural history*

### A National Preserve in a City

Protecting one of the last unspoiled wetlands on the Atlantic coast, including evidence of 6,000 years of human habitation, **Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve** was established in 1988. Congress chose the term **Preserve** to designate public and private uses not traditionally found in national parks, such as hunting and fishing.



The marshes and waterways of the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks.

The Timucuan Preserve encompasses 46,000 acres, 75 percent of which are waterways and wetlands forming an estuarine system where the Nassau and St. Johns rivers meet the Atlantic Ocean. Virtually the **entire area is within the City of Jacksonville**, offering a large open area for recreation and the protection of natural and cultural resources within a major metropolitan center.

Less than 30 percent of the land within the boundaries of the preserve is under National Park Service direct management. Therefore, the **park must rely**

**on building relationships and partnerships** to achieve its mission of resource protection and visitor access. The park's management plan envisions the National Park Service coordinating government agencies and private interests, including the more than 300 private landowners who live and work within the boundaries of the preserve.

### Partnering for the Future

To build a solid base of partnerships, the park superintendent began by developing relationships with the two other principal owners

of preserve lands – the State of Florida and the City of Jacksonville. This led in 1999 to a common vision and a formal partnership agreement. The three primary land managers have defined a “cooperative zone” where they share management responsibility and resources, including staffing, planning, and marketing.

Under their partnership name, **Timucuan Trail State and National Parks**, they accomplish more than any one of them could do alone.

# *A Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play; A Place for Contemplation and Inspiration...*



## **About the Timucuan Trail Partnership**

To facilitate coordination, the National Park Service, the Florida Park Service, and the City of Jacksonville joined together in 1999 to form a partnership now known as the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks.

A part of the Memorandum of Agreement signed at the time reads: "To the extent practicable, [the partners] mutually agree to commit staff, equipment and facilities ... for the common protection of all resources contained in the Cooperative Zone, as well as for the appropriate enjoyment and appreciation of the same by the public."

Lands jointly managed by the partnership encompass a magnificent and dynamic coastline salt marsh/estuarine system covering about 84,000 relatively unimpaired acres – within Jacksonville's city limits, and more than 50 times larger than Manhattan's Central Park.

Timucuan Trail partners protect a **rich and diverse biological system** that contains important and sometimes critical habitats used by rare and sensitive species such as the bald eagle, Atlantic loggerhead turtle, West Indian manatee, and wood stork, as well as multitudes of more common species.

Lands protected by Timucuan Trail partners are **rich in prehistoric and historic sites and resources** representing a continuum of human habitation, occupation, European exploration, cultural contact, conflict, fortification and settlement.

Partnership lands provide a large open area of beaches, waterways and uplands for

**recreational opportunities** such as boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, swimming, surfing, bird-watching, and bicycling.

Partnership lands illustrate **ways in which humans can live and have lived in harmony with nature**. They also provide a living textbook that teaches how past misuse by humans can be identified, sometimes corrected, and avoided in the future.

In summary, partnership lands serve hundreds of thousands of people annually as **a place to live, to learn, to work; a place for contemplation and inspiration; and a place to play**.



Biking one of the many wooded trails in the Timucuan Trail State & National Parks.



## United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve  
13165 Mt. Pleasant Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32225



IN REPLY REFER TO:

March, 2006

Dear Colleague,

*Ecosystem: a system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms  
with its environment.<sup>1</sup>*

Think of the Timucuan Trail partnership as a *human ecosystem* created to preserve and protect a very special *natural ecosystem*: **one of the last unspoiled expanses of wetlands** on the Atlantic coast.

This protected area has **broad cultural significance** as well, containing sites that represent every chapter in Florida's long and complex history.

Equally important, partnership holdings offer a **wide array of recreational opportunities**, as long as those opportunities are consistent with preservation and protection.

The National Park Service is proud to be a primary member of the Timucuan Trail partnership. We look forward to a long and productive collaboration with the Florida Park Service, the City of Jacksonville, and other involved agencies and organizations.

This folder contains a variety of information about the partnership: basic facts and figures; our publics and the messages we reach them with; the public venues we support; our priorities for the future; and the other members of our partnership team.

If you'd like additional information about how the collaboration came about, or where we're heading, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

Barbara Goodman  
Superintendent  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

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<sup>1</sup> Webster's Random House College Dictionary

## **Timucuan Trail Partnership: Facts and Figures at a Glance**

**Timucuan:** refers to the native people who lived in the local area before the arrival of Europeans. The term Timucuan actually represents a number of cultural traditions that have become defined by a shared language.

**Preservation Project Jacksonville:** An initiative begun by the City of Jacksonville in 1999 to acquire land within the city and set it aside for conservation. Initial goal was to acquire 10 to 20 square miles of land; by 2005, 81 square miles had been acquired by the City and its partners.

**Total acreage within Timucuan Trail purview (includes private lands): Over 84,000 acres**

**Major places of ecological/historical/recreational interest: 31**

**Other identified historical/cultural sites: 11**

**Public campgrounds: 3**

**Premier birding sites identified by the Great Florida Birding Trail project: 12**

**Plant community habitats within partnership lands: 15** – coastal strand, dry prairie, pinelands, sandhill, xeric oak scrub, mixed hardwood pine forest, hardwood hammock and forest, coastal salt marsh, freshwater marsh and wet prairie, cypress swamp, hardwood swamp, bay swamp, scrub and brushland, open water (salt and fresh), barren

**Species of birds commonly sighted: Over 300**

**Citizen support organization:** Friends of the Talbot Islands State Parks  
Preservation North Florida

**Partnership-approved concessions: 5**

- Amelia Occasions/Ribault Club (conference/event facility rental)
- Ecomotion Tours (guided Segway tours)
- Kelly's Sea Horse Ranch (horseback riding)
- Long Island Outfitters/Kayak Amelia (canoe and kayak rental)
- Nassau Sound Bait and Tackle

**Annual visitors to partnership resources, estimated: Over 1 million**

**Annual visitor spending, Timucuan Trail partnership, estimated: Over \$68 million**

**Principal corporate property owners within Timucuan Trail partnership:**  
Jacksonville Electric Authority, CSX Corporation

**Principal non-profit property owners within Timucuan Trail partnership:**  
The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land

**Number of private property owners within Timucuan Trail partnership: over 300**

**Timucuan Trail Partnership:  
Other Partners**

**Federal**

US Environmental Protection Agency	US Coast Guard
US Fish & Wildlife Service	National Marine Fisheries Service
US Army Corps of Engineers	US Navy
National Park Service	Federal Emergency Management Agency

**State of Florida**

Department of Environmental Protection	Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Recreation and Parks	Division of Law Enforcement
Division of Marine Resources	Division of State Lands
Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services	Division of Environmental Resource Permitting
Florida Inland Navigation District	State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Community Affairs	Department of Transportation
Department of Consumer Services - Division of Forestry	Guana, Matanzas, Tolomato National Research Reserve
Florida Humanities Council	

**City of Jacksonville**

Mayor's Office/City Council	Environmental Protection Board
Historic Preservation Committee	Regulatory and Environmental Services
Parks, Recreation & Entertainment	Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Economic Development Council	Port Authority
Planning & Development Department	Environmental Law
Public Works	

**Regional**

St. Johns River Water Management District	Metropolitan Planning Organization
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council	

**Private and Non-profit Entities**

300 property owners	American Heritage Rivers
CSX Corporation	Florida State University
Girl Scouts of the USA	The Nature Conservancy
Jacksonville Community Council Inc.	The Trust for Public Lands
Jacksonville Electric Authority	Jacksonville University
Leadership Jacksonville	Mayport Waterfront Partnership
North Florida Land Trust	University of North Florida
Jacksonville Convention & Visitors Bureau	International Resource Center of Jacksonville
Preservation North Florida	Sierra Club
Eastern National	Others

## Timucuan Trail Partnership: The People We Serve

Because the 84,000 acres of the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks partnership fall within the City of Jacksonville, we place special emphasis on understanding and meeting the needs of the local community.

For example:

- Because our cultural and natural resources can enrich school curricula, we meet regularly with **area educators** at all levels.
- Because **area businesses** emphasize local “quality-of-life” attributes in order to attract employees, we solicit ideas for ways to meet corporate needs. We also engage corporations in local environmental-conservation activities.
- Because one of our units focuses on the plantation era, we communicate often, and in depth, with members of the **local African American community**.
- Because another unit focuses on early **French and Spanish presence** here, we maintain contact with representatives of those nationalities.
- Because several of our units offer spectacular birding opportunities, we work closely with the **Audubon Society and other, similar groups**.
- Because we share concerns with area environmental groups, we have ongoing relationships with organizations like **The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, the Sierra Club, and other, similar groups**.
- Because we strive to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, we listen to **organizations representing anglers, kayakers, hikers, and others**.

These and other outreach activities help us to develop programs and resources that members of the local community want. Some recent and ongoing activities:

- restoration of Ribault Club
- development of teachers’ guides, other educational materials
- customized ranger-led tours and bird-watching walks
- construction and maintenance of boat docks, bicycle path
- assistance with archaeological and historical research
- sponsorship, support of fishing tournaments, triathlons, other recreational activities
- sponsorship, support of special-needs fitness activities
- support of concession services
- development of hiking trails and trail maps
- Special heritage programs (Black History, Women’s History, Native American Heritage, Hispanic American Heritage)
- Living history activities





## **Timucuan Trail Partnership: The Messages We Convey**

Timucuan Trail partners reach out to a variety of publics (see “The People We Serve”) in several ways in order to communicate the value of partnership lands.

**We reach these publics** via on-site visitor programs and exhibits; conversations with community leaders; classroom presentations; publications of all kinds; and interaction with local and national media.

**The messages we convey** – the stories we tell – seek to instill appreciation of, and build support for, the values of partnership lands. We emphasize, for example:

- the impacts of human activity on the natural resources of partnership lands;
- the interaction of cultures within the region – especially Colonial French, Spanish, British, American, Native American, and African – that have had a profound impact on American history;
- the coastal, wetland and upland dynamics of a coastline/salt marsh/estuarine system;
- the strategic military and economic importance of the lower St. Johns River; and
- the resources of the lower St. Johns River that provide and have provided basic subsistence to a variety of people.

**We also work to protect the natural unobstructed views** within the preserve in order to allow the public to experience the pristine character of these partnership lands. And where existing human structures intrude on natural vistas, we encourage enhancement or rehabilitation of those vistas whenever possible.

Finally, **we seek to ensure continued provision of land- and water-based access**, allowing visitors to have a visual and sensory understanding of the wetlands ecology.



**Timucuan Trail Partnership:  
Major Places of Historical/Ecological/Recreational Interest**

The 84,000-acre Timucuan Trail State and National Parks comprise an estuarine ecosystem that includes coastline, salt marsh, coastal dunes, and hardwood hammocks, all rich in native vegetation and animal life.

Archaeological evidence indicates 6,000 years of human habitation in the area. The arrival of Europeans over 400 years ago resulted in exploration, colonization, agriculture, and commerce under the flags of France, Spain, England, the Confederacy, and the United States.

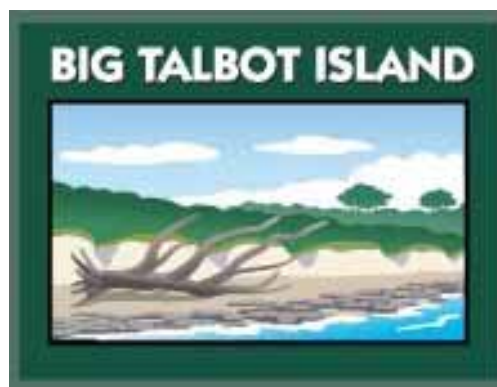
The Timucuan Trail partnership has within its boundaries federal, state, and city parklands, and over 300 private landowners. The partners work cooperatively, and with other organizations and individuals, toward a common set of goals.

The partnership takes its name from the word the first European explorers used to identify the Native Americans living in the area. There are no known descendants living today.

Major places of historical, ecological and recreational interest within the partnership purview include the following. Unless otherwise noted, admission is free.

For information about public programs in state parks, call 904.251.2320. For information about similar programs offered by the National Park Service, call 904.221.7567. For information about similar programs offered by the City of Jacksonville, call 904.630.3535.

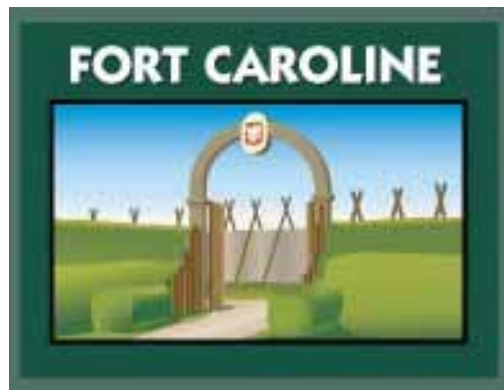
- **Alimacani Island Fish Camp and Park:** 0.75 acre of coastal strand. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 2002. Offers boat ramp, fishing.
- **Amelia Island State Park:** 230 acres of sandy beaches, dunes, maritime hammock, coastal grasslands. Opened 1983. Offers beaches, fishing, access to the George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park (see below), guided horseback rides (concession), wildlife viewing, and weekend ranger interpretive programs. Admission fee.
- **American Beach:** 8.5 acres of beach dune acquired by National Park Service in 2004 as part of a plan to commemorate an historic recreational area established in the 1920s for African-Americans during the segregated "Jim Crow" era.
- **Betz Tiger Point Preserve:** 550 acres of woodland. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 2003. Offers hiking/nature trails, bicycling, horseback riding.



- **Big Talbot Island State Park:** 1,700 acres of maritime hammock, marshes, sandy beach. Opened 1983. Offers boat ramp, fishing, canoeing/kayaking (concession), hiking/nature trails, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and weekend ranger interpretive programs. Admission fee.



- **Bird Island:** 9 acres of dune, beach. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 2000. Protected as a bird habitat and nesting area.
- **Joe Carlucci, Sisters Creek Park and Boat Ramp:** 3 acres. Established by City of Jacksonville in 1991. Offers boat ramp, picnicking, fishing.
- **Cedar Point:** 400 acres of upland hammocks, salt marshes. Became part of National Park Service's Timucuan Preserve in 1996. Offers hiking/nature trails, primitive boat ramp, wildlife viewing.
- **Cedar Point Preserve:** 420 acres. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 1996 and 2004. Trails, other public facilities to be established.
- **George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park:** 1.5 acres/ one-mile-long pedestrian fishing bridge. Opened 2003. Offers fishing, and a bait & tackle concession. Admission fee.
- **Helen Cooper Floyd Park:** 78 acres. Established by City of Jacksonville in 1990. Offers boat ramp, fishing.

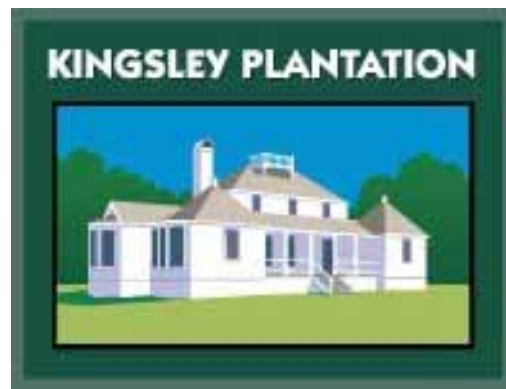


- **Fort Caroline National Memorial:** 680 acres featuring reconstruction (at 2/3 original size) of the fort built by the French in 1564 to protect early settlers from the Spanish. Became part of National Park Service in 1953. Located on south bank of St. Johns River. Contains model fort, visitor center, bookstore, dock, hiking/interpretive trail. Offers ranger talks, guided walks, reenactments.
- **Fort George Island Cultural State Park:** 620 acres of maritime hammock, shell mound, and estuarine tidal marsh. Opened 1989. Includes Rollins Bird and Plant Sanctuary, Ribault Club. Offers bicycling, boat launch, fishing, hiking/nature trails, visitor center with natural and cultural history exhibits and bookstore, wildlife viewing, and weekend ranger interpretive programs.
- **Half Moon Island:** 244 acres of marine hammock. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 1999. Public facilities to be established.

- **Kathryn Abby Hanna Park:** 450 acres of woodland, sandy beaches, dunes, freshwater lake, located south of St. Johns River. Established by City of Jacksonville in 1979. Offers camping (293 sites), swimming, boating, hiking/nature trails, wildlife viewing, visitor center. Admission fee.



- **Huguenot Memorial Park:** 450 acres of beaches and dunes near the mouth of St. Johns River. Established in 1979 by City of Jacksonville. Offers camping (71 sites), swimming, picnicking, hiking/nature trails, wildlife viewing, visitor center. Admission fee.
- **Kelly Seahorse Ranch:** Horseback-riding concession located in Amelia Island State Park (see above).



- **Kingsley Plantation:** 60 acres bordering the Fort George River and surrounding the oldest principal slave-plantation structure still standing in Florida, as well as the remains of 23 slave cabins. Became part of National Park Service in 1991. Contains historic structures, visitor center, bookstore, dock. Offers formal and informal ranger talks.
- **Little Talbot Island State Park:** 1,800 acres of wide, sandy beach, heavily vegetated sand dunes, and undisturbed salt marshes. Opened 1951. Offers fishing, camping (40 sites), hiking/nature trails, bicycling, canoeing/kayaking, picnicking, surfing, swimming, wildlife viewing, and weekend ranger interpretive programs. Admission fee.

- **Long Island Outfitters/Kayak Amelia:** Canoeing/kayaking concession located in Big Talbot Island State Park (see above).
- **Nassau Sound Bait & Tackle:** Concession located at George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park (see above).
- **Palms Fish Camp:** 2 acres. Purchased by City of Jacksonville in 2002. Offers boat ramp and docking facility.
- **Pelotes Island Nature Preserve:** 170 acres of maritime hammock, salt marsh and shell midden, established by St. Johns River Power Park in 1991. Offers nature center, picnicking, hiking/nature trails. Reservations required.
- **Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park:** 3,900 acres of cypress dome, sandhill, maritime hammock, and estuarine tidal marsh. Opened 2004. Offers hiking/ biking/equestrian trails, fishing, hand launch for canoeing/ kayaking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, weekend ranger interpretive programs.



- **Ribault Club:** Part of Fort George Island Cultural State Park (see above), built in 1928 as part of a golf-club complex. Restored in 2003. Named for French explorer Jean Ribault, who visited the area in 1562 and 1564. Contains exhibit area, bookstore, conference/event facility rental. Operated in partnership between city, state and National Park Service.
- **Ribault Column:** Replica of the column that French explorer Jean Ribault erected in 1562 to claim Florida for France. Dedicated in 1924.
- **Rollins Bird and Plant Sanctuary:** Part of Fort George Island Cultural State Park (see above), donated to State of Florida by Rollins College in 1950. Named for John Rollins, a former owner of Fort George Island.
- **The Theodore Roosevelt Area:** 600 acres of woods, ponds and wetlands adjacent to Fort Caroline National Memorial (see above). Became part of National Park Service in 1990. Offers hiking/nature trails, cabin ruins, cemetery, observation platform.
- **Sisters Creek Marina:** 23 acres. Established by City of Jacksonville in 1997. Offers boat ramps, picnicking, fishing.
- **Thomas Creek Preserve:** 1,500 acres of wetlands and maritime hammocks. Purchased by City of Jacksonville and St. John's Water Management District between 1999 and 2002. Offers boat ramp, fishing.
- **Yellow Bluff Fort Historic State Park:** 2 acres; historic Civil War encampment site. Opened 1954. Offers picnicking, weekend ranger interpretive programs.

**Timucuan Trail Partnership:  
Other Historical/Cultural Sites and Resources**

**Napoleon Bonaparte Broward House:** Built in 1878, the summer residence of Florida's 19<sup>th</sup> governor. Added to Timucuan Preserve in 2004 as the result of a partnership between the City of Jacksonville, the State of Florida, the National Park Service, and the Trust for Public Land.

**Dos Hermanas:** Spanish fort built during second Spanish Period (1784-1821) as protection against enemy ships entering St. Johns River via Two Sisters Creek. Exact location unknown.

**Fort St. George:** British fort built during 1730s, probably on Fort George Island, to monitor Spanish activities. Exact location unknown.

**Heckscher Drive:** Constructed in the 1920s by August Heckscher and a developer to provide access to Fort George Island. Opened in 1926 as a privately owned toll road, it was purchased by the State of Florida in 1944.

**Pilot Town:** A 19<sup>th</sup>-century settlement on Batten Island, adjacent to Fort George Island. The name comes from the community of bar pilots who lived here and guided ocean-going vessels around the treacherous sand bars at the mouth of the St. Johns River.

**St. Johns Town:** British town on St. Johns Bluff from 1765 to 1783. Exact location unknown. Administratively listed on National Register of Historic Places.

**San Estaban:** Spanish-built blockhouse on south bank of St. Johns River, destroyed by French in 1568. Exact location unknown.

**San Gabriel:** Spanish-built blockhouse on north bank of St. Johns River, destroyed by French in 1568. Exact location unknown.

**San Juan Del Puerto:** Site of Indian village and Spanish mission (ca. 1578-1763) on Fort George Island. Site of several archeological excavations. Listed on National Register of Historic Places.

**Spanish Pond:** Possible location of Spanish campsite before the 1565 attack on Fort Caroline.

**Thomas Creek Battlefield:** Scene of a Revolutionary War clash in 1777. Exact location unknown. Historic marker on U.S. Highway 1 where it crosses Thomas Creek.



**Timucuan Trail Partnership:  
Priorities for the Future, Partnering Opportunities**

(Note: These initiatives offer opportunities for new partners to join with the City of Jacksonville, and the Florida and National Park Services. The list is illustrative, not exhaustive.)

- Improve visitor facilities (interpretive resources, camping areas, trails, picnic areas, overlooks, restrooms, parking areas, etc.) at various public venues.
- Rehabilitate boat docks and launch areas.
- Establish concession for river-taxi travel between venues.
- Develop new bicycle routes and equestrian trails.
- Develop interpretive program for American Beach.
- Monitor and control erosion along shorelines.
- Protect breeding colonies of designated species.
- Control exotic (invasive) plant and animal species.
- Protect natural views that are now unimpaired by permanent manmade elements.
- Encourage enhancement or rehabilitation of natural vistas where manmade intrusions currently exist.
- Develop complete inventory of flora and fauna.
- Expand partnership boundaries as land purchases become feasible.
- Strengthen partnerships with area educational institutions at all levels.
- Expand linkages with ecotourism groups.
- Continue to conduct archeological surveys.
- Encourage new volunteer programs, expand existing programs.
- Seek out new sources of funding (private donations, sponsorships foundation grants).